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POLAND: Pressure on the Church

The government is increasing pressure on the Church to help stem the rising level of popular resistance. Party hardliners, meanwhile, may seek to oust moderates at the Central Committee session scheduled for this weekend, and the government is urging some internees to emigrate. [REDACTED]

Polish media yesterday criticized some members of the clergy for making "provocative statements" that will further encourage the "extremist minority," presumably such as the youthful demonstrators on Saturday in Poznan. The media also are blaming radicals in Solidarity for inciting a "bloody civil war," and for giving prominence to alleged terrorist incidents, such as the discovery of a homemade time bomb at a gas station in Lublin. [REDACTED]

Although there is no confirmation of other demonstrations similar to those in Poznan to mark the second month of martial law, [REDACTED] that many protests in an increasing number of provinces had been planned. Silent marches involving 2,000 to 3,000 people--especially mothers with young children--occurred on two successive nights last week in Swidnik, the scene of a similar protest march the previous weekend. [REDACTED]

Comment: The rare public criticism of the Church by the regime may have been prompted by the activities of some priests who are student advisers at the universities and who in the past were militant supporters of the independent student association. By playing on Archbishop Glemp's fear of a breakdown in social order that would result in civil war, the authorities might hope that the Church leadership will exert greater discipline over local clergy. [REDACTED]

The demonstration in Poznan apparently was the first protest to occur there since the imposition of martial law, and students at the newly reopened universities seemed to be the driving force. The conspicuous presence of military and police patrols during the past few days

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Approved for Release 16 February 1982
Date AUG 1999

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in other major cities probably intimidated many would-be demonstrators. For example, the local authorities in Gdansk yesterday claimed there had been no demonstrations and announced some easing of martial law restrictions.

The regime may consider the situation in Swidnik even more ominous than the activities of the students. Large numbers of women and children in a demonstration probably inhibit the reaction of security forces, and the model may be used elsewhere to good effect.

Central Committee Meeting

[redacted] party hardliners will try to oust moderates at the next Central Committee session, tentatively scheduled for this weekend. The hardliners will seek to reduce Premier Jaruzelski's authority, but the official expects them to be defeated overwhelmingly.

Comment: The long-delayed Central Committee session is not likely to settle the intraparty strife, but Jaruzelski, who at this point is immune to attacks from hardliners, will probably orchestrate a meeting that emphasizes party unity. The contest between hardliners and moderates will continue at the local level and in the party apparatus for an indefinite period, giving greater influence in the regime to the military.

Emigration for Internees

[redacted] the regime has begun implementing its announced policy of offering emigration to internees who request it. The authorities reportedly have threatened renewed prison terms for released internees who do not leave.

Comment: The regime probably prefers to force militant intellectuals and Solidarity activists to leave the country rather than risk more domestic resistance. The closing of the internment camps also will eliminate a major source of international criticism of the government.

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